

## **Guiding Principles of the Elkins Family Law Task Force**



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA  

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ELKINS FAMILY LAW TASK FORCE

1. Courts will ensure consistent and timely access to equal justice for all individuals, families, and children in family law proceedings.
2. Statutes, rules, procedures, and practices will protect procedural fairness and the due process rights of parties as well as seek to increase efficiency, effectiveness, consistency, and understandability. Simplification must not diminish due process rights. Task force recommendations will be evaluated for their potential impact on due process, fairness, and effective and timely access.
3. Court services, procedures, and calendaring should address the needs of parties—whether attorney-represented or self-represented. They should also be adapted to the complex and diverse needs of individuals, families, and children in court. In making its recommendations, the task force will be cognizant of the various challenges litigants may have accessing the courts, including language barriers, cultural barriers, and disabilities.
4. The task force will identify the resources courts require to handle increasingly complex and demanding family law caseloads. Investing in the modernization of family law courts will improve the quality of outcomes for Californians and enhance the priority given to and status of family law proceedings.
5. The task force is aware of the unique opportunity to make far-reaching, positive changes in family law. The task force is mindful of the long-term impact of family law on individuals, families, children, and society.
6. The task force will develop its recommendations through an inclusive process that relies on consultation with interested stakeholders and the public, as well as coordination and collaboration with ongoing related projects and efforts to improve family law.

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### *Additional resources:*

[www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/tflists/elkins.htm](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/tflists/elkins.htm)